



28 SEP 2002

2004
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In re Application of:

Veronique KOOTER LENDERS

Application No.: 10/502,329

PCT Application No.: PCT/NL02/00542

Int. Filing Date: 13 August 2002

Atty. Docket No.: KOOT-001

Priority Date: 14 June 2002

For: ADJUSTABLE SEAT BELT GUIDE

DECISION

ON PETITION

UNDER 37 CFR 1.181

This is a decision in response to applicant's communication filed on 15 June 2004. This letter is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181.

BACKGROUND

On 13 August 2002, applicant filed international application PCT/NL02/00542, which designated the U.S. and claimed a priority date of 14 June 2002. Accordingly, the 30-month deadline for entry into the U.S. national stage will expire at midnight on 14 December 2004.

On 12 March 2004, applicant purportedly filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage in the United States, accompanied by: *inter alia* a specification (6 pages), claims (2 pages), abstract (1 page) and 3 sheets of drawings; a copy of the published international application (16 sheets); and a return receipt postcard. The requisite U.S. Basic national fee also accompanied this transmission.

No record can be found of the above-mentioned papers in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

On 15 June 2004, applicant filed a copy of the 12 March 2004 transmission along with the instant petition asking that these papers be treated as being filed on 12 March 2004.

DISCUSSION

Applicant has submitted a copy of a postcard receipt which indicates that the following were received in the USPTO on 12 March 2004:

a transmittal letter (3 pages);
a specification (6 pages);
claims (2 pages ;
Abstract;
Drawing figures (3 sheets);
WO 03/106230 (16 sheets); and
a return postcard.

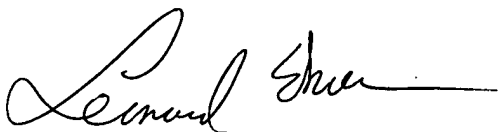
The "Express Mail" number on the postcard "EU 975044000 US" matches that on the first sheet of the transmittal letter of the 12 March 2004 transmission. The name of the applicant, the attorney, the attorney docket number and the title of the invention on the postcard all match with the corresponding information for this application.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the petition is GRANTED.

This application will be forwarded to the United States Designated/Elected/Office for further processing under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and 35 U.S.C. 371. The application papers filed with the 15 June 2004 petition have been assigned application serial number 10/502,329 and these papers will be accorded a receipt date in the USPTO of 12 march 2004.

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with the contents of this letter marked to the attention of the PCT Legal Office.



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